

# Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1. A shoe comprising:

a sole defining a heel area and lateral sides;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar and a vamp having a toe cap, said upper being permanently attached along the heel area and one of the lateral sides of said sole, and being unilaterally split between the quarter and vamp, from the collar to the other lateral side of the sole;

a zipper provided horizontally along said sole from a position on the vamp in the area of the ball of the big toe, along the toe cap, and reaching to where the split between said quarter and said vamp, said zipper having a pull-tab;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

a second hook-and-pile fastener complementary to said first hook-and-pile fastener, provided on said quarter, flanking said split.

[c2] 2. A shoe comprising:

a sole defining a heel area and lateral sides;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar and a vamp having a toe cap, said upper being permanently attached along the heel area and one of the lateral sides of said sole, and being unilaterally split between the quarter and vamp, from the collar to the other lateral side of the sole;

a zipper provided horizontally along said sole from a position on the vamp in the area of the ball of the big toe, along the toe cap, and reaching to where the quarter and vamp split, said zipper having a pull-tab;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

a pair of complementary second and third hook-and-pile fasteners, said second hook-and-pile fastener being provided on said quarter, flanking said split, and said third hook-and-pile fastener being provided extending from said vamp, for overlying said second hook-and-pile fastener; whereby

said first hook-and-pile fastener and said third hook-and-pile fastener are fastenable to said second hook-and-pile fastener.

[c3] 3. A shoe for the elderly and disabled, the shoe comprising:

a sole defining a heel area, lateral sides and a toe area, said toe area being thinner to the extent possible than

the heel area;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar and a vamp having a toe cap, said upper being permanently attached along the heel area and one of the lateral sides of said sole, and being unilaterally split between the quarter and vamp, from the collar to the other lateral side of the sole;

a zipper provided horizontally along said sole from a position on the vamp in the area of the ball of the big toe, along the toe cap, and reaching to where the quarter and vamp split, said zipper having a pull-tab;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

a pair of complementary second and third hook-and-pile fasteners, said second hook-and-pile fastener being provided on said quarter, flanking said split, and said third hook-and-pile fastener being provided extending from said vamp, for overlying said second hook-and-pile fastener; whereby

said first hook-and-pile fastener and said third hook-and-pile fastener are fastenable to said second hook-and-pile fastener.

- [c4] 4. A shoe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a syn-

thetic fabric is laminated.

[c5] 5. A shoe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

[c6] 6. A shoe as set forth in claim 3, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

[c7] 7. A shoe as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an insole, said insole including:  
an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and  
an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

[c8] 8. A shoe as set forth in claim 2, further comprising an insole, said insole including:  
an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

- [c9] 9. A shoe as set forth in claim 3, further comprising an insole, said insole including:  
an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and  
an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.
- [c10] 10. A shoe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of  $0.01 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$  or greater.
- [c11] 11. A shoe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of  $0.01 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$  or greater.
- [c12] 12. A shoe as set forth in claim 3, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of  $0.01 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$  or greater.